

Appln. No.: 10/691,450
Response dated May 31, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 14, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of May 14, 2007, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. No amendments are made in the present response. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action restricts certain claims as follows:

- Species I: Fig. 5
- Species II: Fig. 2

Applicants elect Species of Fig. 2 with traverse. Applicant respectfully submits that the election of species requirement is improper. In order to restrict claims to different species, the claims must be mutually exclusive. See MPEP § 806.04(f). However, the claims of Species I and II are not mutually exclusive. Applicants submit that Fig. 5 represent specific species corresponding to the generic claim of Fig. 2. As such, the elected Species of Fig. 2 includes election of all claims 1-48.

CONCLUSION

All issues having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and solicit prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3153.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 31st day of May, 2007

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